AT&T has announced its intention to acquire the last remaining pieces of Alltel that were left behind after Verizon Wireless acquired most of the company in 2008. That and their decision to acquire 700 MHz licenses from Verizon Wireless that Big Red agreed to sell of in exchange for approval of the Verizon SpectrumCo deal would further cement the AT&T Verizon duopoly position they have in the wireless market. Verizon when it bought AlTel had to divest some of its assets and customers - it could not buy all of the company. AT&T should not be allowed to buy up the remaining assets and shut the company down for good.

Prior to the Verizon sale, Alltel used to operate in 34 states, targeting small and medium sized cities. The company was well-regarded for its innovative plans and features that distinguished it from its larger rivals. Among them: *Alltel Family Finder* helped parents keep track of children, *My Circle* allowed customers to make and receive unlimited free calls to and from any number in a calling circle, including landlines, and *U Prepaid* offered customers the chance to make unlimited calls to one number of their choice.

Alltel's cellular network is based on CDMA technology, incompatible with AT&T's GSM network. Alltel subscribers are expected to receive credit towards the purchase of new GSM equipment as Alltel's network is retired.

AT&T says its acquisition will allow Alltel customers to enjoy a better wireless experience and also benefit AT&T customers who roam in Alltel service areas. But customers will likely lose access to Alltel's service plans and will eventually be asked to choose a different plan from AT&T, potentially at a higher price.

The acquisition further reduces competition in the American wireless marketplace.